By the Queene.

A Proclamation for the reformation of many abuſes and miſdemeanours committed by Patentees of certaine Priuiledges and Licences, to the generall good of all her Maieſties louing Subiects.

WHereas her moſt excellent Maieſtie hauing granted diuers Priuiledges, and Licences, (vpon many ſuggeſtions made vnto her Highneſſe, that the ſame ſhould tend to the common good and profit of her Subiects) hath ſince the time of thoſe Grants receiued diuers Informations of ſundry grieuances lighting vpon many of the poorer ſort of her people (by force thereof) contrary to her Maieſties expectation, at the time of thoſe Grants: All which being duely examined, by ſuch as her Maieſtie hath directed to conſider, and report the ſtate of ſuch complaints as haue bene made in that behalfe, It doth appeare that ſome of the ſaid Grants were not only made vpon falſe and vntrue ſuggeſtions contained in her Letters Patents, but haue beene alſo notoriouſly abuſed, to the great loſſe and grieuance of her louing Subiects, (whoſe publike good ſhee tendereth more then any worldly riches:) And whereas alſo vpon like falſe ſuggeſtions, there haue beene obtained of the Lordes of her Highneſſe priuie Counſell, diuers Letters of aſſiſtance, for the due execution of diuers of the ſaid Graunts, according to her Highneſſe gracious intention and meaning. Foraſmuch as her moſt excellent Maieſtie (whoſe care and prouidence neuer ceaſeth to preſerue her people in continuall peace and plenty) doth diſcerne that theſe particular Graunts enſuing, namely, of or in any wiſe concerning Salt, Salt vpon Salt, Vineger, Aqua vitæ, or Aqua compoſita, or any liquor concerning the ſame, Salting and packing of fiſh, Trayne Oyle, Blubbers or Liuors of fiſh, Poldauyes, and Wildernire, Pots, Bruſhes, and Bottels, and Starch, haue beene found in conſequence ſo farre differing from thoſe mayne groundes and reaſons, which haue beene mentioned in the Graunts, and haue alſo in the execution of the ſaid Letters Patents bene extremely abuſed, contrary to her Highneſſe intention and meaning therein expreſſed: She is now pleaſed of her meere Grace and fauour to all her louing Subiects, and by her Regall power and authoritie to publiſh and declare (by vertue hereof) all the ſaid Graunts aboue mentioned, and euery clauſe, article and ſentence (in the Letters Patents thereof contained) to be void. And doth further expreſſly charge and command all the ſaid Patentees, and all and euery perſon and perſons, clayming by, from or vnder them, or any of them, that they or any of them, doe not at any time hereafter preſume or attempt to put in vre or execution, any thing therein contained, vpon paine of her Highneſſe indignation, and to bee puniſhed as contemners and breakers of her royall and princely Commandement.

And whereas her Maieſtie hath alſo granted diuers other Priuiledges and Licences, ſome for the better furniſhing of the Realme with ſuch warlike prouiſions as are neceſſary for the defence thereof (as namely that concerning Saltpeter) and ſome of other kindes to particular perſons, which haue ſuſteined loſſes and hinderances by ſeruice at Sea, and Land, or ſuch as haue bene her Maieſties ancient domeſtical Seruitors, or for ſome other like conſiderations, as namely, New Draperie, Iriſh Yarne, Calues ſkins, Pelts, Cards, Glaſſes, Searching and Sealing of Leather, and Steele, and ſuch like; In which Graunts alſo her Highneſſe hath beene credibly informed, that there hath beene abuſe in the execution of them, to the hurt and preiudice of her louing Subiects (whereof ſhe meaneth alſo that due puniſhment ſhall follow vpon ſuch as ſhall bee found to haue particularly offended) Her Maieſtie doeth by theſe preſents likewiſe publiſh, notifie and declare her gracious will and pleaſure to bee, That all and euery her Highneſſe louing Subiects, that at any time hereafter ſhall finde themſelues grieued, iniured or wronged by reaſon of any of the ſayd Graunts, or any clauſe, Article or ſentence therein conteined, may bee at his or their Libertie to take their ordinary remedy by her Highneſſe Lawes of this Realme, any matter or thing in any of the ſaid Grants to the contrary

notwithstanding. And forasmuch as her Maiestie (with the aduise of her priuie Counsell) is now resolued, that no Letters from henceforth shall be written from them to assist these Grants, seeing they haue serued for preterts to those that haue had them, to terrifie and oppresse her people (meerely contrary to the purpose and meaning of the same) Her Maiestie doth straitly charge and command, that no Letters of Assistance that haue bene granted by her Counsell for execution of those Grants, shall at any time hereafter be put in execution, or any of her louing Subiects be therby inforced to do or performe any thing therin contained. And that no Pursuiuant, Messenger of her Highnesse Chamber, or other officer whatsoeuer doe at any time hereafter presume or attempt any thing against any of her louing Subiects, by pretext or colour of any such Letters of assistance, for execution or putting in vre of any of those aforesaid Graunts, or any thing therein contained. And as her Maiestie doth greatly commend the duety and obedience that her louing Subiects haue yeelded in conforming themselues to the said Graunts, being vnder the great Seale of England: So her Maiestie doth notifie and signifie by these presents, That if any of her Subiects shall seditiously, or contemptuously, presume to call in question the power or validitie of her prerogatiue Royall annexed to her imperiall Crowne, in such causes, all such persons so offending, shall receiue seuere punishment, according to their demerits.

And whereas she hath also bene informed, that diuers of her Subiects are desirous to be set at libertie for the sowing of Woad, restrained by a Proclamation in the fortieth and two yeere of her reigne, at which time it was thought by many men of good experience, that such restraint would be a meane to preuent sundry inconueniences, forasmuch as her Maiestie had neuer other purpose by that restraint, then to doe that which might be for the greatest and most generall benefite of her Subiects: Her highnesse is also pleased (and so shee doeth) by this Proclamation set at liberty all such persons as shall thinke it for their good, to imploy their grounds to the vse of sowing of Woad, notwithstanding any such prohibition in any former Proclamation. Prouided alwayes, that it shall not be lawfull for any person or persons whatsoeuer, to conuert any ground that shall be within three miles of the Citie of London, or neere any of her Maiesties houses of accesse, nor so neere to any other great Citie or Towne corporate, whereby any offence may grow by the noysome sauour of the same. Giuen at our Palace at Westminster the 28. day of November, in the fourtieth and foure yeere of her Maiesties most prosperous raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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